

# BUILDING A BETTER NEW JERSEY

*As Construction Begins On The The Bayonne Bridge, Governor Christie Remains Committed To Putting Tradesmen To Work And Creating Jobs*

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In 2010, Governor Christie stood at the foot of the Bayonne Bridge stressing the long-term importance of the bridge as a vital infrastructure investment and critical to economic vitality of the Garden State. Now, with the building permit secured, construction has begun on the modernizing of the Bayonne Bridge.

## THE BAYONNE BRIDGE PROJECT IS CREATING JOBS

Construction is now underway on the \$1.3 billion project to raise and modernize the Bayonne Bridge, creating more than **2,500 construction jobs here in New Jersey**. The total regional economic impact of the project will result in approximately **6,300 job years**, **\$380 million in annual wages**, and **\$1.6 billion in annual economic activity**.

The Ports of Newark and Elizabeth are critical to the economic success of New Jersey, the region, and the country. Fixing the Bayonne Bridge affects the cost of goods, keeps and grows jobs, and helps New Jersey businesses who export their products. The ports operated by the Port Authority supports 280,000 jobs, \$11.6 billion in annual personal income, and \$37 billion in annual business income.

## INVESTING IN NEW JERSEY & PUTTING TRADESMEN BACK TO WORK

The Christie Administration has acted to move forward with direct infrastructure investment and public-public private partnerships, including:

- **Urban Transit Hub Credit.** Governor Christie fought for and enacted numerous changes to the Urban Transit Hub law to ensure that this valuable incentive tool was utilized. To date there have been 21 approved projects, resulting in \$2.8 billion in capital investment, the creation of nearly 2,990 new, permanent jobs and over 12,050 construction jobs, and the retention of 2,935 jobs that were at risk of leaving New Jersey.
- **Newark Teachers Village.** The second phase of Newark's \$150 million Teachers Village is now underway. During peak construction as many as 200 construction workers will be on the job.
- **School Development Authority.** Last month, Governor Christie announced that nearly a half billion dollars in grants will become available for needed construction projects in school districts across New Jersey, the largest single grant program in the State's history. The SDA currently has an active portfolio of 882 of grants supporting approximately \$1.6 billion in school facilities work. Since its 2001 inception, New Jersey's school construction program has provided more than 3,000 grants to RODs, totaling more than \$2.3 billion. Including contributions from local school districts, these grants have leveraged projects estimated at \$7.4 billion overall.

In addition, under the direction and leadership of Governor Christie, the Port Authority is rededicating itself to its mission of enhancing the port region's critical transportation infrastructure, such as:

- **Lincoln Tunnel Helix Rehabilitation:** In November 2011, the Port Authority approved a project to repair the Lincoln Tunnel Route 495 roadway approach. This structure is more than 70 years old and the project will repair this crucial infrastructure over a period of three years in order to extend the roadway's usability. This repair will result in 210 direct job-years, and direct payroll wages of \$17 million.
- **Goethals Bridge Replacement:** The Goethals Bridge, completed in 1928, is the oldest and most constrained facility on a critical interstate highway corridor. A 2010 study found that the bridge is both functionally and physically obsolete. The new Goethals Replacement Bridge, built to current standards will address these critical needs. This project is expected to result in 2,598 direct job-years, and direct payroll wages of \$181 million.

- **Newark Liberty Terminal B:** Newark Liberty Airport is currently nearing the completion of a \$347 million modernization project that will allow for increased international traffic and improve efficiency and operations for both international and domestic passengers. This project is expected to result in 990 direct job-years, and direct payroll wages of \$76 million.
- **Port Newark:** In July 2011, Governor Chris Christie joined Port officials at the Port Newark Container Terminal (PNCT) to announce a half-billion dollar investment project at the terminal that will create a state-of-the-art container terminal that will help the port meet the region's shipping needs during the first half of the 21st century and create nearly 800 new jobs. The announcement followed on the heels of the Port Authority's approval of a restructured lease with PNCT that will create nearly 800 new jobs – including 350 construction jobs, and will generate 1,450 overall jobs for New Jersey.
- **George Washington Bridge Suspender Rope Replacement:** All 592 steel suspension ropes will be replaced for the first time since the GWB opened to traffic in 1931. This project is scheduled to begin this year and is expected to result in 1,620 direct job-years, and direct payroll wages of \$153 million.